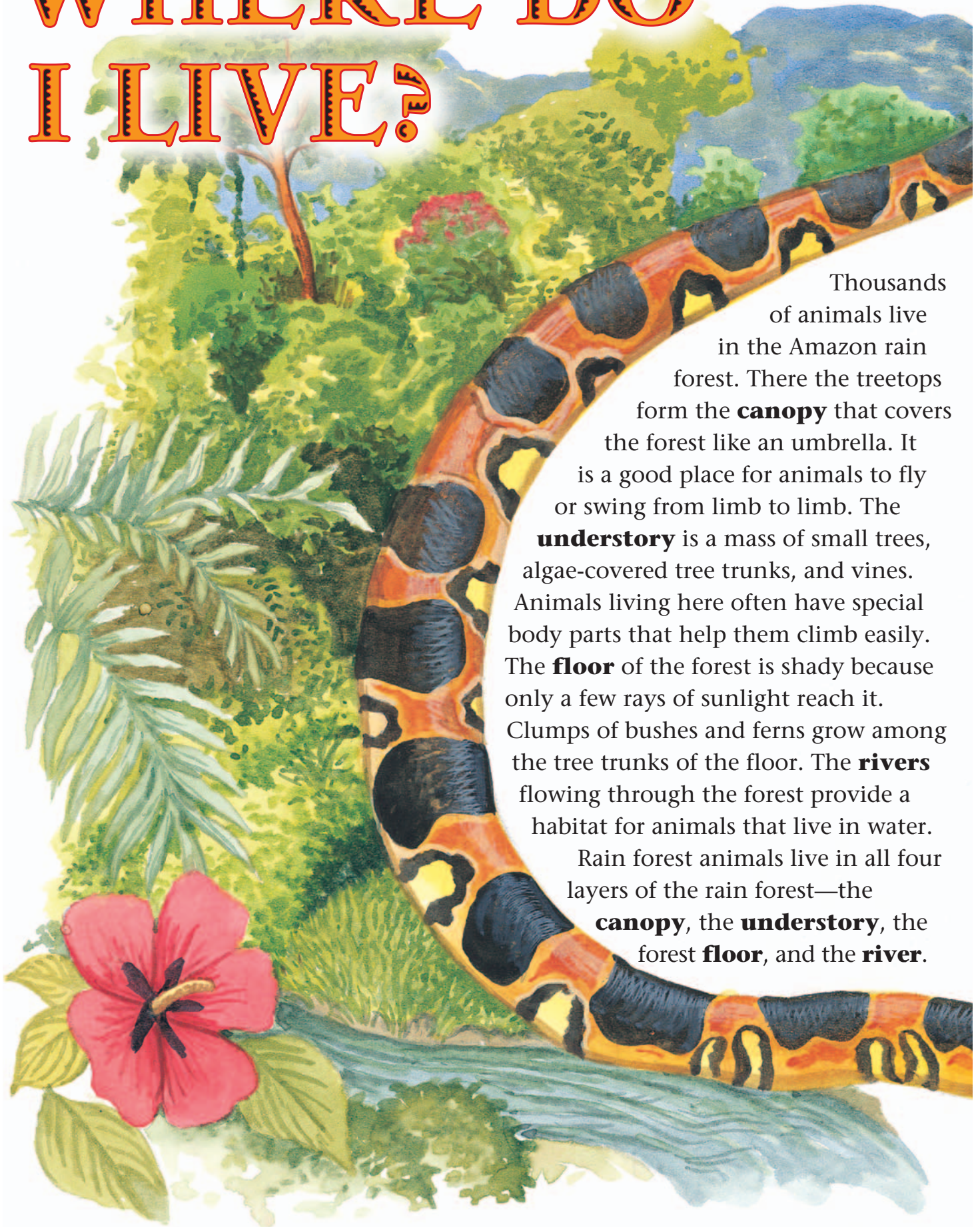
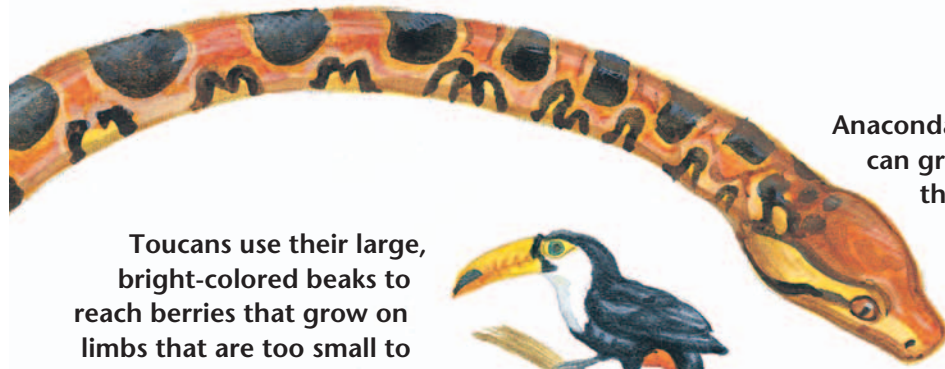


WHERE DO I LIVE?



Thousands of animals live in the Amazon rain forest. There the treetops form the **canopy** that covers the forest like an umbrella. It is a good place for animals to fly or swing from limb to limb. The **understory** is a mass of small trees, algae-covered tree trunks, and vines. Animals living here often have special body parts that help them climb easily. The **floor** of the forest is shady because only a few rays of sunlight reach it. Clumps of bushes and ferns grow among the tree trunks of the floor. The **rivers** flowing through the forest provide a habitat for animals that live in water.

Rain forest animals live in all four layers of the rain forest—the **canopy**, the **understory**, the forest **floor**, and the **river**.



Anacondas, the world's largest snakes, can grow to 35 feet long. On land they move slowly, but they are very fast swimmers. Anacondas move around between the trees, the forest floor, and the rivers.

Toucans use their large, bright-colored beaks to reach berries that grow on limbs that are too small to support their weight. They live in the rain forest canopy and fly above it.



Using his tail for support, the red howler monkey moves around by swinging from branch to branch. Howler monkeys spend most of their time in the trees in the canopy and the understory.



At night, fruit bats leave their tree holes to search for flowers full of nectar. They use the claws on their wings and feet to hold onto the flowers and branches while they drink. Fruit bats live in the canopy and the understory.



The powerful jaguar hides behind clumps of bushes. His beautiful spotted coat camouflages (hides) him in the low light. They are good climbers who move between the forest floor and the understory hunting animals.



The giant anteater rips anthills open with his claws. He flicks his sticky tongue into the hole, capturing hundreds of ants. Anteaters live in and around the forest floor.



The tiny tree frog has a suction cup on each of his fingers and toes. This helps him grip onto branches, vines, and wet leaves in the rain forest understory.



The bumpy shells of matamata turtles protect them by making them look like floating logs. Their habitat is the rain forest river.



Adapted from an article by
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